

THE CROSSING

Roxbury Community College

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❖ *RCC Featured in National Community College Publication*

RCC gained nationwide attention after it was named by Achieving the Dream, Inc. (ATD) as one of 23 emerging leaders to join the ranks of now 52 Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges. Recently Roxbury Community College was prominently featured in an article published in *Community College Week*, a national publication. The article described the significant increase in the rate at which students starting in developmental math advance to college-level math by their third semester. The article noted that at RCC “Periodic math clinics and workshops—including one focusing on math anxiety—are designed to help students through their coursework. A computer-equipped math lab provides a place where students in need of help can go to work with peers and instructors. Sterling Giles, the ATD coordinator at RCC, was quoted extensively in the article. Giles struck a note of optimism as RCC’s ATD five-year grant nears its end. Giles recalled that RCC rewrote its strategic plan to embrace ATD principles. “We said in the old plan what we would do. It was all about task completion. The current plan is based on whether we are moving the needle. We have to look at the metrics, and that’s what we’re doing.”

❖ *RCC Accepts College Completion Challenge*

RCC has signed on to the American Association of Community Colleges’ College Completion Challenge. In doing so, RCC is now committed to producing 50% more graduates over the next decade. A statement released by the College noted that “Roxbury Community College has an obligation to meet the challenge while holding firmly to traditional values of access, opportunity, and quality.” Among many additional points, the statement said that “We believe the ‘open door’ must not be a ‘revolving door,’ and that Roxbury Community College must take responsibility for student success.”

❖ *Charles D. Diggs Becomes New Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs*

Bringing with him more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Charles Diggs was appointed as Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at RCC this month. In his previous position at Northern Essex Community College (NECC), Dean Diggs worked in enrollment services and as an academic counselor. His experience working at NECC, another Achieving the Dream (ATD) Leader College, will benefit Dean Diggs when he joins RCC’s ATD Core Team. Dean Diggs will act as the Director of Admissions at RCC. He will oversee the Registrar’s area, and serve as the Code of Conduct Officer for Student Judicial Affairs.

❖ *Career Fair Draws Over 600 Visitors*

“This was a fantastic career fair!” exclaimed one excited job seeker in response to the Annual Fall 2011 Community Career Fair co-sponsored by Roxbury Community College and JobNet, MA One Stop Career Center held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center last month. More than 600 people including RCC students and alumni, community residents, and high school students had the opportunity to connect with an estimated 100 representatives from 50 companies and organizations.

❖ *Senator Brown Hosts JOB Fair At RCC*

The office of U.S. Senator Scott P. Brown hosted a Bay State Jobs Fair at Roxbury Community College last month. Free tables were provided for employers to set up hiring information and for their respective representatives. The event was very well attended by RCC students and members of the community.

❖ ***Legislative Representatives Tour RCC***

Representatives Gloria Fox, Sean Garballey and Thomas Stanley recently toured Roxbury Community College as part of The Joint Higher Education Committee's initiative to visit state colleges. RCC President, Terrence Gomes and Vice President Stephanie Janey accompanied the tour, which included the STEM Division Biotechnology Lab, the Health Sciences Division Simulation Labs and the Center for Student Success. The representatives left the College impressed by the resources available to students and faculty at RCC.

❖ ***RCC Students Participate in Service Learning Project***

Embracing the spirit of service learning, 31 Roxbury Community College students rolled up their sleeves last month and sorted 5, 986 pounds of food used to prepare 3, 696 meals at the Greater Boston Food Bank. The student volunteers are enrolled in RCC Professor Barbara Savage's Introduction to Statistics courses. Students will complete their service learning by researching and preparing a small group PowerPoint presentation on an aspect of hunger, malnutrition or food insecurity.

❖ ***Hispanic Heritage Speaker Connects Cultures Through Language***

Professor Arthur K. Spears, of The City University of New York, was guest speaker for RCC's annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Professor Spears showed how common linguistic roots connect Spanish, English, and African languages in his lecture entitled *What's Black and African About Spanish and English in The Americas*.

❖ ***Library Open House Showcases Resources and Services***

Fifty RCC faculty and staff gathered in the library group study room last month for an open house. Much conviviality was shared while attendees learned more about recent additions to library resources. These additions include streaming videos, online books, online reference service, new databases, digital archive collections and a group video room. Refreshments were served by the College's new food vendor.

❖ ***Little Sprouts Receives Major Award***

At a recent luncheon for the top 10 finalists for the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Year Award, Little Sprouts was honored as the Small Business of the Year for 2011. Little Sprouts has been a leader in providing award-winning early education since 1982. Roxbury Community College is the location of one of Little Sprouts' 13 Massachusetts schools. Little Sprouts supports families that represent 56 cultures and 23 languages, from diverse social, economic and religious backgrounds.

❖ ***Roxbury Repertory Theater's Mockingbird Ends With Rave Review***

Calling Marshall Hughes' direction of The Roxbury Repertory Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, "ingenious," Beverly Creasey in her review of the play added that the audience was held "enthralled for over two hours." In the review, which appeared in the most recent issue of the Boston Arts Review, Creasey wrote that "this MOCKINGBIRD lets the story truly sing...and finally does [Harper] Lee's novel justice.